

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06404 271041Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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R 270446Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8661
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6404

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TU, GW
SUBJECT: FRG MILITARY AID TO TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 7793 (DTG 231234Z AUG 77) (NOTAL)

1. POPULAR DIALY "HURRIYET" AUGUST 23 CARRIED REPORT FROM BONN ALLEGING THAT FRG AND EC COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE TO PERSUADE USG TO LIFT CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED ARMS TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY. ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO "HIGH FRG OFFICIALS" REMARKS THAT TURKEY IS "BACKBONE" OF WESTERN DEFENSES IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

2. REMAINDER OF "HURRIYET" ARTICLE WAS DEVOTED TO FRG
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06404 271041Z

MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND QUOTED FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL JOSEF A RESPONDEK AS SAYING THAT DM 1200 MILLION AID AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED WITH GOT IN SEPTEMBER. NEW AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY PROVIDES FOR TURKISH PURCHASE OF 200 LEOPARD TANKS, BRIDGELAYING TANKS, AND MILAN ANTI-TANK MISSILES (438 LAUNCHERS AND 6250 MISSILES). OTHER PROVISIONS, ACCORDING TO "HURRIYET", CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FRG-

TURKISH ARMS AND MACHINEGUN FACTORY, ANOTHER PLANT TO MANUFACTURE COBRA MISSILES, TANK MAINTENANCE DEPOT TO MANUFACTURE SPARE PARTS FOR M-47, M-48 AND LEOPARD TANKS, AND TANK DIESELIZATION FACILITY TO BE SET UP BY GERMAN MTU CORPORATION. ALSO, FRG IS TO BUILD TWO 1000-TON SUBMARINES FOR TURKEY.

3. TERMS OF AGREEMENT, CONTINUED "HURRIYET", INCLUDE "HERMES" LOAN OF DM 560 MILLION, AND GOT PAYMENT OF 15PERCENT OF THE COSTS IN CASH. AGREEMENT, FINAL TALKS ON WHICH ARE TO BE HELD IN ANKARA BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17, CALLS FOR PROGRAMS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1983.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING REPORT CONTAINS NO NEW INFORMATION ON PROJECTS COMTEMPLATED UNDER FRG MILITARY AID PROGRAMS, BUT IT IS INTERESTING THAT FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY IS ALLEGEDLY WILLING TO STATE THAT THE END OF THE PROTRACTED AND COMPLICATED FRG-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE AID PACKAGE IS IN SIGHT. ALSO, WE NOTE REPORTED COMMENT BY FRG FONMIN GENSCHER TO GREEK OFFICIALS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ATHENS THAT GOG NEED NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT FRG AMILITARY AID TO TURKS BECUASE GOT IS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH DM 6 MILLION IN MATCHING FUNDS (PARA 5 REFTEL). CURRENT TURKISH FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES ARE WELL-KNOWN, BUT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER THIS IS THE MAIN PROBLEM HOLDING UP THE FRG-TURKISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 06404 271041Z

5. FOR BONN: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ONFRG-EC "INITIATIVE" PER PARA 1 ABOVE, LIKILIHOD THAT FRG-GOT AID AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED IN NEAR FUTURE AND ON GENSCHER'S REPORTED ASSURANCES TO GREEKS.

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